

may protect the public while ensuring their own safety in these scenarios. NAMI programs, such as CIT, help develop professionals and individuals from all backgrounds and strengthen the communities they serve.

Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic we have seen increased anxiety, fear, isolation, and grief from people of all ages increasing the need for mental health services. The strain placed on hospitals to treat this new infectious disease has limited access to critical services including behavior health. Yet advocates like Ken never faltered despite this unprecedented time and continued his efforts to support community members in need of behavioral health services.

While in Congress I am proud to have worked with Ken to open opportunities for mental health, suicide prevention, and addition services, and I am grateful for the devoted staff and volunteers at NAMI NH for their tremendous work.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to thank Ken for his continued dedication to the wellbeing of fellow Granite Staters and wish him the best as he transitions from his role as Executive Director.

HONORING RETIRED ARMY COLONEL MIKE PLUMMER FOR HIS DEDICATION IN SERVING FORT DRUM AND THE NORTH COUNTRY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the extraordinary life of retired Army Colonel Mike Plummer. Colonel Mike Plummer played a pivotal role in reactivating the 10th Mountain Infantry Division and bringing it to Fort Drum, New York. Col. Plummer's prioritization of creating an enduring bond between Fort Drum and the community forever changed the North Country. Col. Plummer graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1960 prior to serving in Vietnam. For the next thirty years, Col. Plummer valiantly served in infantry units at every level of the XVIII Airborne Corps.

While working at the Pentagon during the waning days of the Cold War, Col. Plummer recognized the growing importance of light infantry units. He was tasked with flying to northern New York to scope out Fort Drum as a potential base for the newly reactivated 10th Mountain Light Infantry Division. This visit would sway Col. Plummer into advocating for Fort Drum to be the home of the 10th Mountain Division. He believed the harsh winter conditions of Fort Drum would create a division that was prepared for any environment they may encounter. In 1984, Plummer brought the 10th Mountain Division to Fort Drum and immediately prioritized creating a strong relationship between the military and the North Country community. The required expansion of Fort Drum, prior to the arrival of the 10th Mountain Division, created many jobs and stimulated the economy in the North Country. Plummer's role in introducing the 10th Mountain Division into the region

changed the North Country and the Watertown community forever.

After serving as the 10th Mountain Division's first Chief of Staff at Fort Drum, Col. Plummer retired in 1991. Following his retirement from the Army, Col. Plummer remained committed to improving the North Country community and bettering the lives of Fort Drum soldiers. In 1992, Col. Plummer created the Adopt-a-Platoon program, which gathered community members together to write letters and send care packages to deployed soldiers and host a pizza party when they returned. This program started out local in the North Country and has now developed into a national program that has adopted service members of all branches of the military. The success of the Adopt-a-Platoon program is entirely due to Col. Plummer's dedication to ensuring the local community supports their service members.

Col. Plummer dedicated his career to improving the lives of others. In addition to the Adopt-a-Platoon program, Col. Plummer served as an advisor to the Board of Directors of Advocate Drum, created the Yellow Ribbon campaign, organized scholarship funds for family members of the 10th Mountain Division soldiers killed or wounded in action. Helped establish the soldier 101 program in the North Country to give the community a better understanding of the life of a soldier, and developed the idea for the "North Country Honors the Mountain" monument in Watertown's Thompson Park. This monument commemorates the lasting impact that the 10th Mountain Division has on the North Country and pays tribute to the sacrifice of every Fort Drum soldier.

Col. Plummer has made an indelible impact on the North Country and Fort Drum. Throughout his entire life he put his family, the 10th Mountain Division, and the North Country above himself. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to remember and celebrate the life of Col. Mike Plummer. The impact he has made on the North Country can never be overstated.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF LEONARD WARE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the rich life and distinguished career of Leonard Ware. Leonard was born on January 19, 1928, in Everett, Washington, and died at his Palo Alto home on December 19, 2021. With him at his death bed were his wife Jeanne, and his dog Jake.

Leonard Ware earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Washington and his law degree from Syracuse University in 1953. He was a member of the honorary legal society Phi Delta Phi.

Leo served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Western District of Washington from 1953 to 1955, and was a member of the Palo Alto Planning Commission from 1965 to 1968. He was a member of the Palo Alto, Santa Clara County, Washington State and American Bar Associations. He was also a member of the State Bar of California and the California Trial Lawyers Association, as well as the Palo Alto Club and the Bohemian Club.

Based on a handshake in 1969, Leo and his friend John Freidenrich established their law firm which became known as Ware Fletcher and Freidenrich. The firm prospered, merged several times and was eventually acquired by the global firm of DLA Piper.

Leo went to Mississippi in the '60s to register Black voters and was a staunch supporter of civil rights laws. He was an original investor in Embarcadero Media, on the original board of University National Bank and Trust, and with his wife, was a strong supporter of many non-profit organizations.

Leo loved spending time at his ranch in Morgan Hill where he raised animals and grew grapes, and he will be deeply missed by everyone who had the privilege to know him.

Leo leaves his wife of 62 years, Jeanne, and his daughters Laura and Pamela, his son Lincoln, nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren. His daughter Jennifer predeceased him.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in extending our condolences to Leonard Ware's family, and in honoring Leo for the excellence of his life, his work and his countless contributions. We are a better community and a stronger country because of him.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF RON BERNAL

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Ron Bernal upon his retirement from the City of Antioch.

Ron has been a longtime friendly face working for the Antioch. Ron joined the City of Antioch as assistant city engineer in 1998. Prior to that, Ron worked for the City of Dixon for 14 years. In 2009, Ron began working as public works director for the City of Antioch. In 2016, Ron was promoted to assistant city manager and in 2017 he stepped into the position of City Manager.

During his time as City Manager, Ron was a strong leader on a variety of key issues in the city such as homelessness, water rights, and economic development. Ron was particularly passionate about housing issues in the community. He often met with unhoused residents and played a critical role in ensuring that they have access to basic services. He also implemented vital police reforms within the Antioch Police Department. Ron was instrumental in leading the City through some of the greatest structural improvements that Antioch has ever undergone.

In his personal life, Ron enjoys spending time with his wife, Irma, their children, and their three grandchildren.

Ron's work has had a significant impact on the City of Antioch and its residents. Please join me in congratulating Ron on his retirement and honoring Ron for his 36 years of public service.